

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action dated February 17, 2004. Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-152, 162-187, 197-206 and 209-219 without prejudice or disclaimer. Although no fee is due in connection with this Response, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or credit for any overpayment.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements

On February 23, 2004, Applicants submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, and on April 29, 2004, Applicants submitted another Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants respectfully request the consideration of the references cited in such Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action stated that Claims 153-161, 188-196, 207, 208 and 220-221 are allowed. For the reasons described below, Applicants have cancelled all pending Claims in this application except for Claims 153-161, 188-196, 207, 208 and 220-221. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected Claims 147-152 and 182-187 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,416,411 to Tsukahara ("Tsukahara"). For the reasons discussed in Applicants' December 4, 2003 Response, Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse such rejection. Nonetheless, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled Claims 147-152 and 182-187 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the patentability of the invention defined by such Claims in one or more continuation applications.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejected Claims 131-146, 167-181, 197-203 and 210-216 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,309,299 to Weiss ("Weiss") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,311,982 to Lebensfeld et al ("Lebensfeld"). For the reasons discussed in Applicants' December 4, 2003 Response, Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse such rejection. Nonetheless, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled Claims 131-146, 167-181, 197-203 and 210-216 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the patentability of the invention defined by such Claims in one or more continuation applications.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for allowance and is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions related to this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to discuss this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY



Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4284

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